(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) A study was conducted by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR) in early 90s and sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) which was based on 3,200 sample respondents who were awarded Ph.D. degree. 95.6% of them were employed and 4.1.% were unemployed and 0.3% were not seeking employment.

(c) and (d) Department of Science and Technology has a Scheme "Opportunities for Young Scientists". Under this scheme, qualified scientists with Ph.D. or M.Tech. or M.D. degree and within the age of 35 years are encouraged to submit research proposals. This scheme encompasses broad areas of science and technology. The scheme is available to both employed and unemployed young scientists. There is a provision in the scheme for salary payment to the unemployed young scientists for the duration of the project.

In addition, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is operating a Scientists Pool Scheme since 1958 which offers financial assistance to highly qualified unemployed scientists/engineers/ medical professionals by way of Senior Research Associateship for a period of upto three years. The scheme has supported 10229 highly qualified scientists till date. The scheme seeks to provide temporary placement to such scientists who are looking for regular appointment in Government or private sector.

National Register for Highly Qualified Scientists

1972. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry maintains any National Register for the highly qualified Scientists having Ph.D. and post doctoral qualifications and experience;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose of maintaining the National Register;

(c) whether those Scientists who are not gainfully employed are given any financial grants and/or technical and scientific assistance; and

(d) whether Government have also any plan to absorb such scientists in the Research and Development Wing under Government or Public Sector undertakings and utilise their talents and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Department of Science and Technology has a scheme "Opportunities for Young Scientists". Under this scheme qualified scientists with Ph. D. or M. Tech. or M.D. degree and within the age of 35 years are encouragaed to submit research proposals. This scheme encompasess broad areas of science and technology. The scheme is available to both employed and unemployed young scientists. There is a provision in the scheme for salary payment to the unemployed young scientists for the duration of the project. Additionally, CSIR is operating a Scientists Pool Scheme since 1958 which offers financial assistance to highly qualified unemployed Scientists, Engineers and Medical Professionals by way of Senior Research Associateship for a period of upto 3 years. The Scheme has supported 10,229 highly qualified scientists till date. The scheme seeks to provide temporary placement to such Scientists who are on look out for regular employment in Government or public Sector Undertakings.

Use of remote sensing data to prevent exploitation of biological wealth by MNCs

1973. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn out plans to use data received from

Indian remote sensing satellites IRS-1C and IRS-1D to stem the loss of rich bioligical wealth of the country which is being exploited by multinational firms for pharmaceutical and medicinal purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAIR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Biotechnology in collaboration with the Department of Space has initiated a multi-institutional programme on "Bioprospecting of Biological Wealth using Biotechnological tools." The other institutions involved are: Indian Instt. of Science, Bangalore; National Chemical Laboratory, Pune; Delhi University, Delhi; G.B. Pant Univ. of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar; Central Instt. of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow, Instt. of Himalayan Bioresource Technology Palampur, Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi; Guwahati University, Guwahati; G.B. Pant Instt. of Himalayan Environment and Development, Kosi, Katarmal; Y.S. Pamar Univ. Solan; Botanical Survey of India, Pune and Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Instt., Thiruvananthapuram. The main objective of this programme is conservation and characterisation of biodiversity deploying biotechnological tools. One of the objectives of this programme is also characterisation of the biological diversity of the North Eastern Himalayas and Southern Western Ghats using remotely sensed data from satellite. Satellite data products of IRS-IB/C/D LISS III are being used for prepaning Ecological zone maps, Landscaps characterization to establish disturbance gradient using Geographic Information System and to prioritize the phytogeographically important sites, their spatial extent and risk. This would help in the survey, identfication and characterization of Biodiversity of the region which includes a large number of medicinal plant species. A proper cataloguing of the endangered species would thus be possible.

12.01 P.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi and related papers.

II. Notifications of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Consumer Affairs).

III. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Indian Formers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited, New Delhi and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Thirteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the Working of the above Corporation.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) above.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) *See* No. LT-552/98].

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Consumer Affairs), under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(i) S.O. 555(E), dated August 5, 1997, rescinding the S.O. 2232 dated 13.9.60 Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Commerce and Industry relating to Cinema Carbon.